

## 9. Exhibits – “The Spirit of Wilderness” Interactive Exhibit, Shenandoah National Park

### The Spirit of Wilderness Interactive Exhibit

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Shenandoah National Park



#### Exhibit Objectives

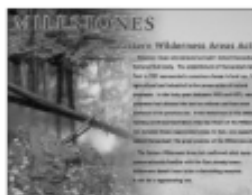
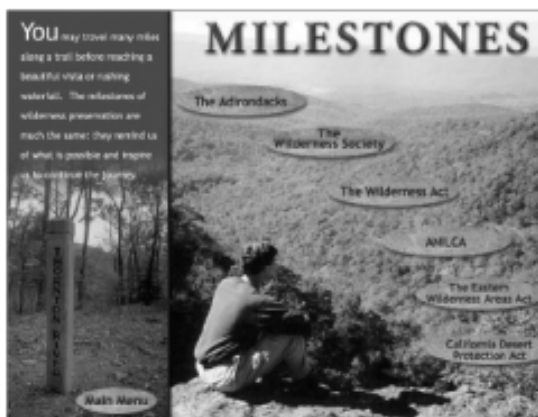
*The Spirit of Wilderness* is an interactive touchscreen computer exhibit that is designed to increase visitors' awareness and appreciation of wilderness and inspire them to explore wilderness, physically and intellectually, nationwide.

The program details the history of the Wilderness movement including introducing visitors to the people who “blazed the trail” to Congressional wilderness designation and chronicling the milestones of their journey. A third track of the program locates and describes wilderness areas nationwide, allowing the visitor to find areas in his or her own region. A fourth track introduces the visitor to Shenandoah's wilderness and encourages exploration on foot or by car, since many of Shenandoah's areas are visible from the park's scenic highway, Skyline Drive. This section also includes information about backcountry camping in Shenandoah including the Leave No Trace principles and instructions for obtaining a permit. The “Challenge” track is an interactive quiz which gives visitors an opportunity to examine their own wilderness values and explore the challenges of managing wilderness.



### Milestones

Spirit of Wilderness Exhibit



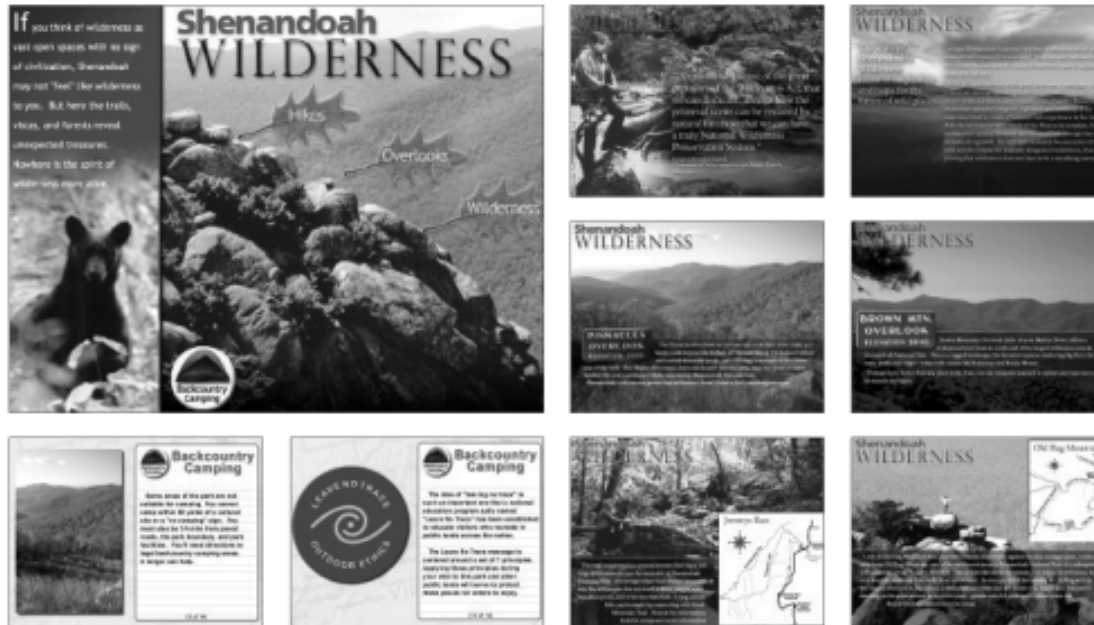
## Spirit of Wilderness Exhibit

**Forever Wild**  
Spirit of Wilderness Exhibit

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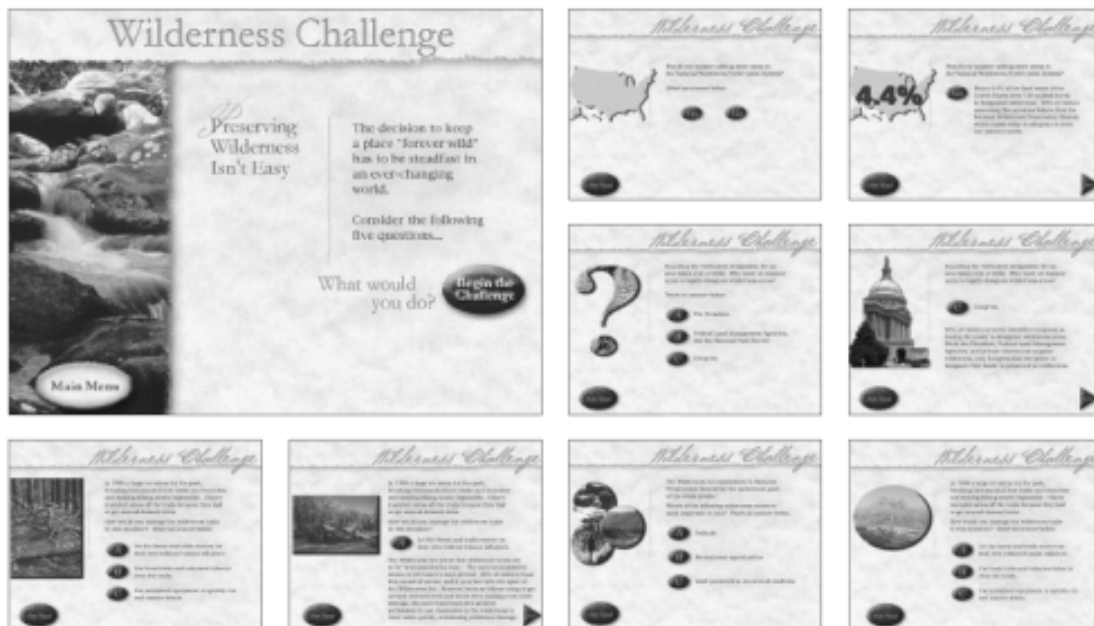
# Shenandoah Wilderness

## Interactive Exhibit



# Wilderness Challenge

## Interactive Exhibit







**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

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## Shenandoah National Park News Release

**For Immediate Release**  
**Contact**

August 19, 2003  
Lorrie Knies at 540-999-3489

### **Shenandoah National Park's Field Seminar Explores the Heart of Wilderness**

Shenandoah National Park will continue its summer seminar series on Saturday, September 6, with an all-day seminar entitled *Wilderness Challenge*. As part of the National Wilderness Preservation System, Shenandoah National Park manages one of the largest wilderness areas in the eastern United States. Participants will learn about the challenges individuals have faced in preserving wild places while discovering the wilderness values that inspired them.

The *Wilderness Challenge* seminar is a strenuous 12-mile circuit hike with an elevation gain-loss of 5000 feet. Participants will experience cascading streams, remote vistas, and physical challenge as they explore the heart of the park's largest wilderness area. Experts from the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, Shenandoah National Park's Wilderness Education Program, and backcountry specialists will share their knowledge of the Wilderness Act and the significance of wilderness designation in the park. Participants will experience first-hand the challenges of preserving wilderness and wilderness values for future generations.

Advanced registration is required and space is limited. Contact Shenandoah National Park's Education Office at 540-999-3489 or go on-line at [www.nps.gov/shen/2h5.htm](http://www.nps.gov/shen/2h5.htm) to register or for more information. The cost for *Wilderness Challenge* is \$30. Registration includes the entrance fee to Shenandoah National Park, course instruction, and educational materials. Shenandoah National Park Association members receive a 20% discount.

Shenandoah National Park Field Seminars will continue through the fall with the following program, *The Art of Wilderness*, October 18.

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10. News Releases – “Park Seminar Celebrates the Art of Wilderness,”  
Shenandoah National Park



**National Park Service**  
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## Shenandoah National Park News Release

**For Immediate Release**  
**Contact**

September 18, 2003  
Lorrie Knies at 540-999-3489

### **Park Seminar Celebrates the Art of Wilderness**

Shenandoah National Park will conclude its 2003 Field Seminar series on Saturday, October 18, with an all-day Seminar entitled *The Art of Wilderness*. This Field Seminar is scheduled during Wilderness Weekend, which honors the anniversary of wilderness designation in Shenandoah National Park.

From the writings of John Muir to the photography of Ansel Adams, art has played an important role in the preservation of wild places. *The Art of Wilderness* will give participants the opportunity to continue in this American tradition. The seminar includes a moderately strenuous 6-mile hike through a portion of Shenandoah National Park's wilderness. Cascading streams, solitude, physical challenge, and the colors of a changing forest will provide a backdrop for participants to express their personal views of wilderness through sketching, journaling, and writing. Experts from the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club and Shenandoah National Park's Wilderness Education Program will share their firsthand knowledge of Shenandoah National Park's wilderness resource.

Designated by Congress on October 20, 1976, Shenandoah National Park's wilderness is one of the largest in the eastern United States. Seminar participants will discover the individuals whose passion for wild places led to the establishment of laws that preserve "an enduring resource of wilderness" for future generations.

Advance registration is required and space is limited. Contact Shenandoah National Park's Education Office at 540-999-3489 or go on-line at [www.nps.gov/shen/2h5.htm](http://www.nps.gov/shen/2h5.htm) to register or for more information. The cost for *The Art of Wilderness* is \$40. Registration includes the entrance fee to Shenandoah National Park, course instruction, and educational materials. Shenandoah National Park Association members receive a 20% discount.

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10. News Releases – “Shenandoah Celebrates 25 Years of Designated Wilderness With Special Programs,”  
Shenandoah National Park



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## Shenandoah National Park News Release

**For Immediate Release**  
**Contact**

October 10, 2001  
Laura Cheek at 540-999-3489

### **Shenandoah Celebrates 25 Years of Designated Wilderness With Special Programs**

Shenandoah National Park Superintendent Douglas Morris invites the public to share in the celebration of 25 years of wilderness in Shenandoah National Park by attending a special program during “Wilderness Weekend,” October 19-21. According to Morris, “This is an anniversary weekend: October 20, 2001, marks the signing of legislation that designated 40% of Shenandoah National Park as wilderness.”

In the United States’ densely populated East, areas preserved as wilderness take on a special meaning. They are sanctuaries for human renewal, habitat for threatened animals, sites for research, and reservoirs for clean, free-flowing water. Even though Shenandoah’s wilderness area was impacted by humans in the past, it is now set aside for the ultimate protection we can give our public wild lands.

Wilderness is maintained for primitive recreation, a place where opportunities for solitude abound and where there are no permanent improvements such as roads or paved trails. By designating wilderness in Shenandoah, Congress added areas of Shenandoah to the National Wilderness Preservation System that was established by The Wilderness Act in 1964.

“Wilderness areas are special places that provide unique opportunities for personal renewal and reconnection,” Morris added. “Come celebrate Shenandoah’s wilderness by attending a ranger-led program, enjoying solitude in the wilderness, or overlooking views of wilderness areas from Skyline Drive.”

Special programs related to wilderness begin Friday night (10/19) and continue through Sunday afternoon (10/21) and vary from guest speakers to guided hikes in wilderness areas. All “Wilderness Weekend” events are offered free of charge, though some programs require advance registration.

For a list of “Wilderness Weekend” events, visit the Shenandoah National Park website at [www.nps.gov/shen/](http://www.nps.gov/shen/). To register for programs, call 540-999-3489.

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**National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior**

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## Yosemite National Park News Release

### For Immediate Release

#### **WildLink Program Promotes Diversity in Wilderness**

“I loved it here in Yosemite. I knew I had to come back,” says 19 year-old Umar Abdullah, a native of Detroit. Abdullah was a participant in a WildLink expedition two years ago. Today, this high school student serves as a mentor on expeditions for a new group of students as an intern sponsored by both the Yosemite Institute and WildLink.

WildLink is an outreach program sponsored by the National Forests, National Parks, and the Bureau of Land Management in the Sierra Nevada. WildLink brings culturally diverse students from target high schools in California into the wilderness of the Sierra Nevada to conduct hands-on science projects and to journal, sketch and photograph their wilderness experiences. In the Sierra wilderness they are challenged both mentally and physically and soon learn that they have what it takes survive in wilderness and in life.

The scope of the WildLink Program extends beyond just a week in the backcountry. The students’ journals, artwork and photos are displayed on the WildLink website <http://wildlink.wilderness.net> which also contains wilderness curriculum and links to career building sites. All WildLink participants are expected to take their experiences in Yosemite with them when they return to their homes, becoming “ambassadors” for wilderness. Whether they present their trip to a school board, community organization or to their classmates, the students share what they had learned first-hand about wilderness. The WildLink program is now in its first year of recruiting previous participants as interns, Umar Abdullah being the first.

Also accompanying students in the backcountry is Jocelyn Gretz, the WildLink program assistant for the 2002-2003 school year. Gretz, a recent graduate of the University of Wisconsin, feels that her commitment to environmental causes and desire to enhance the cultural diversity of outdoor recreationists suits the mission of the WildLink program. “I have an interest in environmental education, and I like the social aspect of this program because it reaches out to more a more demographically diverse body of students than would normally use wilderness areas,” said Gretz. “It is also self-fulfilling,” admits Gretz, who loves to backpack and is enjoying living in California for the first time.

“In group discussions and journaling activities we address the lack of diversity in our national parks and outdoor activities in general. Because we usually have Latino, African-American and Native American students on our trips, the dialogue is well-rounded and perhaps more productive than say, a group of affluent Caucasian men sitting in a board room wondering why our parks aren’t being used by minorities,” Gretz commented. She believes that, “Having an experience in the wilderness at an age where they are forming ideas of how they affect the earth is important. Our goal is not to convert them all into environmentalists, but rather to simply give them the opportunity to experience the beauty that is literally in their backyards. I feel that the Sierras speak for themselves—simply familiarizing the students with the wilderness and making them realize that *they own* Yosemite is a pretty powerful message.”



## 10. News Releases – “WildLink Program Promotes Diversity in Wilderness, Yosemite National Park

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How does Barb Miranda, the WildLink Program Coordinator, regard the program and the contribution of the young interns? “To me, WildLink provides a doorway for everyone, no matter what their background, their ancestry, their economic background. Wilderness is universal: there is something about wilderness that touches all of us. They get to see that, and I get to see it in these students. By the end of the week, they are so alive!”

Miranda is loves the work she does. “Wilderness experiences have given me so much, so to run a program that provides life-changing experiences to young people, and to see them coming back now on your own, makes me think wilderness might be around for a while,” said Miranda.

WildLink is accepting applications for internships next year. Those high school graduates interested in spending 9 weeks to three month in Yosemite working with the WildLink program should visit <http://wildlink.wilderness.net>.

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